

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

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DRAFTED BY AF/S:RPERRY;DKEOGH:DH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 013396

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BC, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS FOR OPENING OF BOT-ZAM ROAD

REF: GABORONE 0170

1. FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED REVISIONS TO AMBASSADOR'S
REMARKS SUBMITTED REFTEL FOR USE AT OPENING OF BOT-ZAM
ROAD ON JANUARY 20.

2. DELETE PARAS 2 AND 3 OF REFTEL AND SUBSTITUTE THE
FOLLOWING.

3. "THIS IS AN HISTORIC DAY FOR BOTH BOTSWANA AND THE
UNITED STATES, MARKED BY NEW BEGINNINGS IN BOTH COUNTRIES.
IN THE UNITED STATES WE CELEBRATE TODAY THE INAUGURATION
OF A NEW PRESIDENT. THIS IS FOR US A TIME OF REDEDICATION
TO THE PRINCIPLES IN WHICH WE BELIEVE. IMPORTANT AMONG
THOSE PRINCIPLES ARE A COMMITMENT TO THE PRESERVATION
OF WORLD PEACE, AND A CONVICTION THAT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND COOPERATION ARE A MAJOR WAY IN WHICH WE CAN ACHIEVE
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THIS GOAL OF WORLD PEACE.

4. "THIS NEW BEGINNING WHICH WE CELEBRATE TODAY IN BOTSWANA

IS A CONCRETE MANIFESTATION OF OUR COMMITMENT TO THESE
PRINCIPLES. TODAY IN BOTSWANA WE HAVE GATHERED TO MARK
THE COMPLETION OF THIS IMPORTANT ROAD LINK, KNOWN AS

THE BOT-ZAM HIGHWAY, AND THE BEGINNING OF ITS ROLE IN THE DAILY LIFE OF THE PEOPLE OF BOTSWANA. WE WANT TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHOSE VISION AND ENERGY MADE THIS ROAD POSSIBLE.

5. "SEEN IN ITS BROADEST PERSPECTIVE THE BOT-ZAM ROAD SHOULD BE CONSIDERED, FIRST OF ALL, AS PART OF THE STEADY MARCH OF ALL PEOPLES TOWARD CLOSER TIES, AND OF THE INEVITABLE MOMENTUM TOWARD GREATER INTERDEPENDENCE OF NATIONS. AS ONE OF THE MORE DEVELOPED NATIONS IN THE WORLD, THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES THAT OUR CONTINUED PROGRESS IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO ASSISTING OTHER NATIONS TO RAISE THEIR ECONOMIC STANDARDS.

6. "BUT INTERDEPENDENCE MEANS MORE THAN SIMPLY WORKING OUT MUTUAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS. WE MUST SEEK IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER NATIONS THE GOALS OF PEACE AND JUSTICE. WE HAVE SHOWN OUR AWARENESS OF THIS ASPECT OF INTERDEPENDENCE IN THE INTENSIFIED INTEREST THE UNITED STATES HAS PAID TO THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IN RECENT MONTHS. OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH BOTSWANA GOES BACK TO THE BEGINNINGS OF ITS INDEPENDENCE, AND OUR EFFORTS TO ASSIST IN ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARE OF EQUAL LONGEVITY. BUT OVER THE PAST YEAR WE HAVE TAKEN EVEN GREATER INTEREST IN THE REGION, AS THE DANGER OF VIOLENCE HAS THREATENED BOTH PEACE AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS. IN RECENT MONTHS, WE HAVE COMMITTED OURSELVES TO WORKING WITH ALL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA TO ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND PEACE IN A WAY WHICH WE

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HAVE NOT DONE BEFORE. AS WE CELEBRATE THIS COMPLETION OF A TASK HERE IN BOTSWANA, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THIS AMERICAN INTEREST IN AND COMMITMENT TO SOUTHERN AFRICA WILL NOT DIMINISH. AS THE NEW AMERICAN PRESIDENT TAKES OFFICE, I CAN AFFIRM THAT OUR DEDICATION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACE IN THIS REGION WILL CONTINUE TO BE AN ISSUE OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO US. SPECIFICALLY WE WILL NOT ALLOW OUR SEARCH FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENTS FOR THE PROBLEMS OF RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA TO WAIVER.

7. "FOR THIS REASON, I TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN PARTICIPATING IN THE OPENING OF AN HISTORIC NORTH-SOUTH LINK ACROSS BOTSWANA. LET US REVIEW FOR A MOMENT SOME OF THE MILESTONES ON THE WAY TO THIS ACHIEVEMENT."

8. PICK UP PARAS 4-6, REFTEL. IN PARA 7, DELETE FIRST TWO SENTENCES. NEW PARA 7 BEGINS "THE PRESIDENT AND PEOPLE OF BOTSWANA" ETC.

9. REVISE PARA 8, REFTEL AS FOLLOWS: "BY ITS PARTICI-
PATION IN THIS PROJECT, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS
DEMONSTRATED SEVERAL THINGS: WE HAVE SHOWN, IN A VERY
CONCRETE WAY, OUR INTEREST IN THE ECONOMIC ADVANCE OF
THE PEOPLES OF THE REGION; OUR DESIRE TO SUPPORT BOTSWANA
ON ITS CHOSEN PATH OF DEMOCRACY AND MODERATION; AND OUR
AWARENESS THAT ONE WAY TO DO BOTH IS TO ASSIST WITH
TRANSPORTATION LINKS SUCH AS THIS HIGHWAY. ADDITIONAL
TRANSPORT ROUTES ARE AMONG THE MOST CRITICAL NEEDS FOR
THE DEVELOPMENT OF BOTSWANA. TRAVEL BETWEEN BOTSWANA
AND ZAMBIA HAS BEEN IMPEDED FOR MANY YEARS BECAUSE OF THE
LACK OF AN ALL-WEATHER ROAD. THIS 300-KILOMETER ROAD
NOW LINKS BOTSWANA'S GROWING INDUSTRIAL SITES WITH NEW
MARKETS TO THE NORTH, AS WELL AS PROVIDING A NEW ROUTE
FOR THE IMPORTATION OF NEEDED MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS
FROM ZAMBIA."

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10. PICK UP PARAS 9-11 TO CONCLUSION.
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Enclosure: n/a
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